

[From Summer 1995]

First Plover Hatches

On May 22, the first piping plover chicks of the season hatched on the Tom's Cove Hook nesting area on Assateague. During the month, four nests hatched; two on the Hook and two on the Wild Beach. Fifteen plover nests have been found on the refuge this year, with 80% of these nests located on the Hook. For the third year, a nest was found within the closed portion of the overwash area. A second pair of plovers began making nest scrapes, also within the closed area. Closure signs were extended further from the nest to ensure the pair would not be disturbed over the busy Memorial Day holiday weekend. Five nests have been lost so far this season. Two losses were due to the heavy rains. Three others were likely due to predation on unenclosed nests with incomplete clutches.

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